



JUDICIAL PROFILE

Michael O. Wilkinson was appointed to the Superior Court in 1987 and currently is with the Special Assignment Department , where he handles a variety of complex cases or matters reassigned from other judges on the bench. Judge Wilkinson received his Bachelor's Degree in political science from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota in 1968 and his law degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1972. After obtaining his law degree, he moved to Arizona and became a Deputy County Attorney in Maricopa County. He prosecuted felonies for 12 years, gaining the reputation as a thorough and dedicated trial lawyer. In 1984, he left the County Attorney's Office and went into private practice with the firm of Friedl, Richter & Buri for one year and then started his own law firm.



Judge Wilkinson is regarded as one of the Court's most accomplished trial judges, able to easily and methodically resolve cases. As an experienced criminal jurist, he has often been asked by the Court's leadership to mentor judges unfamiliar with criminal law and trial tactics. He has served on a variety of assignments during his tenure on the bench, handling civil, domestic relations and special assignment matters in addition to his specialty of criminal cases. He has served on numerous bench committees promoting more streamlined case processing methods and improved judicial procedures.